

AP Essay Rubric

Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Thesis:	Presents a clear, well-developed, complex thesis	Presents a clear, developed thesis	Presents a simple thesis with limited development	Presents a thesis that is confused or underdeveloped, or essay lacks a thesis
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Evidence	Supports thesis with substantial, relevant, and accurate evidence	Supports thesis with relevant and helpful evidence	Supports thesis with limited, but appropriate evidence	Provides minimal, irrelevant, or insufficient evidence
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Knowledge	Demonstrates superior knowledge of subject	Demonstrates good knowledge of subject	Demonstrates average knowledge of the subject	Demonstrates superficial or insufficient knowledge of the subject.
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Analysis	Provides an effective analysis that answers all aspects of the question; thoroughly addresses counter-arguments	Provides analysis but may not devote equal weight to all parts of the question; addresses counter-arguments	Analysis is present but superficial; fails to address counter-arguments; does not sufficiently address all parts of the question	Little or no analysis; describes rather than analyzes; only answers one part of the question
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Organization & Presentation	Paper has strong structure, logical flow, and obvious agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has a structure, logical flow, and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper has a weak, but present structure, understandable flow, and loose agreement between introduction and conclusion	Paper is wandering, incoherent, has mismatched introduction and conclusion, or lacks either
Grade	Excellent (8-9)	Good (6-7)	Adequate (4-5)	Insufficient (1-2-3)
Written Expression	Writing presents no obstacles to understanding; high degree of skill and complexity	Contains only minor errors that do not seriously detract from the essay/argument; writing is skillful	Contains some errors that do not detract from overall essay/argument; writing is competent	Contains major errors or numerous minor ones that detract from the essay/argument; illegible

Grading Scale:									
AP Scale	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Numeric Grade	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	60	55
Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B	B-	C	C-	D-	F